



Success News

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THAI RESTAURANT ADDS SPICE TO THE FORUM

Live Oak, TX – Thai Spice restaurant is an independent, family-owned restaurant amidst chain restaurants at the Forum Shopping Center. The restaurant is owned by Sapakij and Prawpan Shaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were silent partners in another family-owned restaurant, but were ready to venture out and own their own restaurant. They began planning and looking for a desirable spot for the type of restaurant they wanted to open. While at the Forum one evening, trying to find a restaurant to have dinner at, and finding all the restaurants had a 30-minute wait, they realized they had found a prime location for their restaurant. The next day, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw found a lease space that was available and perfect for their need.

Though having been in business before, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were unsure how to go about starting a business. They had heard about the Small Business Administration and knew they wanted to apply for an SBA guaranteed small business loan. Again, they

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were unsure where to begin. Local banker Lou Borgfeld, senior vice president of Schertz Bank & Trust advised them to seek the assistance of the University of Texas at San Antonio –Small Business Development Center. They met with David Baenziger, business advisor. Mr. Baenziger worked with the Shaw's in preparing their business and financial proposal. He also reviewed the SBA loan application process with them so that they would be well prepared and knowledgeable. "David helped us overcome a language barrier," states Mrs. Shaw.

They approached Mr. Borgfeld of Schertz Bank & Trust and applied for an SBA guaranteed loan. Their loan request was approved in April 2002. Mrs. Shaw stated she does not believe that their restaurant, Thai Spice, would be a reality today if it had not been for SBA's guaranteed loan program.

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The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created by Congress in 1953 to support and encourage the creation and success of the small businesses. SBA offers a wide range of financial and business assistance and disaster relief services

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